

REMARKS

The Patent Office has indicated that claims 40, 44-46, 62, 66, and 67 are allowed. The Patent Office has also rejected claims 1, 5-9, 17-24, and 86-93, for the reasons asserted in the Office Action. While Applicants do not concede the merits of any of the rejections set forth in the Office Action, Applicants have elected to cancel the rejected claims without prejudice, solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims similar or identical to the rejected claims as pending prior to cancellation herein in one or more applications claiming priority to the instant application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Order No. B0877.70025US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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